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The value of the platinum imported in 1906 was nearly \$4,000,000, or double the value of that imported three years earlier.

The platinum deposits in this country are to be found in Oregon, California, Washington, Utah and Nevada.

The separation and the complex compounds of the platinum metals continue to offer interesting problems to the chemist, and the able researches of Howe and of Gutbier have added much to our knowledge of this field. Palladium and iridium have found uses in the construction of fine apparatus. Osmium has long been used as a stain in microscopic work, and more recently as a filament for incandescent electric lamps. Ruthenium, as already stated, has been mixed with zirconium carbide for the filament used in the zirconium lamp.

In conclusion, allow me to refer to an address by Dr. H. Landolt given last November at the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the German Chemical Society upon the "Development of Inorganic Chemistry" during the past forty years.⁷ In this address advancement along four lines was especially noted: (1) The discovery of the elements Ga, Sc, Ge, Sm, Gd, Tm, Eu, Nd, Pr, Ar, Xe, Ne, Kr and He; the discovery of radium; and the study of the phenomena of radioactivity, which has taught us that elements are undecomposed but not undecomposable bodies. (2) The realization of a compilation of international atomic weights, a work in which Dr. Clarke of the American Chemical Society has had a large and honorable share. (3) The preparation of elementary substances by the electric furnace and by the Goldschmidt process, and the study of allotropic modifications of elementary substances with special references to colloidal forms. (4) The formation of such com-

pounds as the carbides, hydrides, silicides, complex acids and metal ammonium bodies.

In all of these lines of chemical progress, I am sure you will agree with me that the *rarer elements* have played an important rôle.

PHILIP E. BROWNING

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Geological Society of America has altered the plan of holding its winter meeting at New Haven and will meet at Baltimore in convocation week in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE fourth annual meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology will be held in Baltimore during convocation week, December 28-January 2, in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological and Philosophical Associations and other societies.

ON the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Haverford College, Dr. Theodore W. Richards, of the class of '85, professor of chemistry at Harvard University, gave an address entitled "The Relation of Modern Chemistry to Medicine." Professor Richards and Dr. James Tyson were among those on whom the honorary degree of doctor of laws was conferred.

PRESIDENT CHARLES R. VAN HISE, of the University of Wisconsin, received the degree of doctor of laws from Williams College on the occasion of the inauguration of President Garfield.

THE delegates from the United States to the International Conference on Electrical Units and Standards now in session in London are Dr. Henry S. Carhart, professor of physics at the University of Michigan; Dr. S. W. Stratton, director, Bureau of Standards, Washington, and Dr. E. B. Rosa, physicist of the bureau.

AT the general meeting of the German Meteorological Society at Hamburg in Sep-

⁷ *Ber.*, XL, 4627, 1907.

tember, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation, Professor A. Lawrence Rotch, director of the Blue Hill Observatory, Massachusetts, was elected an honorary member of the society and Professor F. H. Bigelow, of the United States Weather Bureau, a corresponding member.

THE Italian Society of Sciences has awarded its biennial mathematical prize to M. Giuseppe Picciati, of the University of Padua.

SIR GEORGE DARWIN and Professor Larmor have been appointed electors to the Isaac Newton studentships at Cambridge University.

DR. W. ENGELMANN, professor of physiology at Berlin, will retire from active service at the close of the present semester.

DR. P. HEINRICH has retired from the directorship of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Rostock.

MR. F. G. CLAPP, geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, engaged in investigations and preparation of reports on coal, oil, gas and artesian waters, has resigned in order to take up expert practise.

MR. HORACE V. WINCHELL has resigned his position as chief geologist for the Great Northern Railway Co., and has opened an office for general practise.

MISS WILMAN, of the South Africa Museum, has been appointed curator of the Alexander McGregor Memorial Museum, Kimberley, and will take up her duties by the end of February next.

DR. SVEN HEDIN, the Swedish explorer, sailed from Bombay for Yokohama on October 13. He expects to have finished his book on his Tibetan travels next May.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM JAMES returned on October 16 to Cambridge from England, where he had gone to deliver a series of eight lectures at Oxford on "The Present Position of Philosophy."

DR. SMITH ELY JELLIFFE and family have left New York for a year's stay in Europe. Dr. Jelliffe anticipates working in the Psychiatric Clinic with Professor Ziehen while in Berlin and with Dr. Oppenheim, of the same city.

DR. DANIEL VERGARA LOPE, professor of physiology in the University of Mexico, lectured at the George Washington University, October 16, on "The Physiological Effects of High Altitudes on Man."

THERE was held at the Sorbonne in Paris, on October 4, a meeting in memory of the great chemist, Marcellin Barthelot. M. Raymond Poincaré made an address on his work, and was followed by M. Fallière, president of the Republic. M. Clemenceau, the prime minister, and M. Domergue, minister of education, were present.

DR. FRANCIS H. SNOW, chancellor of the University of Kansas from 1889 to 1901, and for many years at the head of the department of entomology, died on September 20 at the age of 68 years.

M. ALPHONSE BOISTEL, for forty years professor of commercial law in the University of Paris, known to students of the natural sciences for his work in botany and geology, has died at the age of seventy-one years.

WE regret also to record the death of Mr. Bennett H. Brough, secretary of the British Iron and Steel Institute, and of Mr. J. T. Cart, an English student of applied chemistry.

THE autumn meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain was held at Middlesbrough on September 28 to October 2 under the presidency of Sir Hugh Bell.

LECTURES will be delivered in the lecture hall of the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, on Saturday afternoons, at four o'clock, as follows:

October 17—"Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms," by Dr. W. A. Merrill.

October 24—"Wild Autumnal Flowers and Fruits," by Dr. N. L. Britton.

October 31—"Letchworth Park and the Falls of the Genesee," by Mr. George V. Nash.

November 7—"Plant Distribution as interpreted by Geology," by Dr. Arthur Hollick.

November 14—"Botanical Cruises in the Bahamas," by Dr. M. A. Howe.

November 21—"The Rubber Plants of Mexico," by Dr. H. H. Rusby.

THE following is the provisional program of the Royal Geographical Society for the present session:

November 2—"Unexplored Western Asia," by D. G. Hogarth.

November 16—"Some Aspects of the River Paraná, and its Watershed: an Economic Survey," by W. S. Barclay.

November 30—"The Panama Canal in 1908," by Dr. Vaughan Cornish.

December 7—Possibly Dr. Sven Hedin on his latest expedition in Tibet.

December 14—"Fifty Years of Nile Exploration and some of its Results," by Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G. (The jubilee of Speke's discovery of the Victoria Nyanza.)

Other papers which may be expected after Christmas are the following:

"My Recent Expedition in Central Asia," by Dr. M. A. Stein.

"Survey and Exploration in the Ruwenzori and Lake Region, Central Africa," by Colonel R. G. T. Bright, C.M.G.

"The Danish Northeast Greenland Expedition," by Lieutenant A. Trollé.

"Bhutan: the Results of Two Expeditions," by John Claude White, C.I.E.

"The Western Pacific," by Sir Everard F. im Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B.

"Across the Sahara from Tripoli to Timbuktu," by Hanns Vischer.

"The Colorado Cañon; Some of its Lessons," by Professor W. M. Davis.

"A Recent Journey in North Central Arabia," by Captain S. S. Butler.

"South America and its Antarctic Relations," by G. F. Scott Elliot.

"Earthquakes and Geography," by R. D. Oldham.

"The Geographical Conditions affecting the Development of the British Empire. II. Australia," by Professor J. W. Gregory, F.R.S.

THE New Zealand Shipping Company's steamer *Ruapehu*, which left Plymouth on October 3 for New Zealand, carried a large consignment of stores for the use of Lieutenant Shackleton's Antarctic expedition. The liner will reach Wellington in the middle of November. Other articles will be sent to the relief ship *Nimrod* at Lyttelton, and these, it is expected, will reach the explorer by New Year's Day.

PROFESSOR D. W. JOHNSON, of Harvard University, spent the summer in physiographic studies in Europe. While in France he directed the researches of four students in the volcanic region of the Auvergne. The fol-

lowing topics were treated: the physiographic features of the great fault scarp west of the Limagne basin, by Mr. S. W. Cushing, instructor in physical geography at the State Normal School, Salem, Mass.; drainage modifications due to lava dams, by Mr. W. G. Reed, Jr., assistant in physiography, Harvard University; physiographic features due to glacial erosion, by Mr. J. E. Buchanon, instructor in physical science and geography, State Normal School, Cheney, Washington; and variations in the forms of volcanoes, by Mr. E. W. Schmitgen. After completing the work in Auvergne, Messrs. Buchanon and Cushing continued studies of glacial erosion in Switzerland, northern Italy and Scotland; while Mr. Reed visited portions of Switzerland, spending a week in an investigation of the physiographic features of the Maloja Pass region. Professor Johnson attended the ninth International Congress of Geography held at Geneva July 27-August 6; and August 25-27 he gave three lectures on the physical and economic geography of the western United States before the Vacation School of Geography at Oxford University, England.

THE Board of Sanitary Commissioners of Savannah, Ga., announces the opening of a Board of Health Laboratory, to be known as the City Bacteriological Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. V. H. Bassett, recently assistant superintendent and pathologist of the Milwaukee Co. Hospital. J. Van de Vrede has been appointed assistant. The department is established by ordinance and will be supported by the board as an adjunct to the Health Office, as an aid to the control of communicable diseases, and for the study of problems in public health. The rooms include office, laboratory room, preparation room, photographic dark room, animal room, storage room, etc.

THE London *Times* states that the question of improving the navigability of the Rhone and thus restoring the city of Lyons to the position it once held as an important inland port is discussed in a recent consular report. At present, although the river is navigable in a direction from Lyons to the sea, it is only navigable upstream as far as Seyssel, so that

water communication with the Lake of Geneva is impracticable. A Paris company has made proposals to the French Government for the construction of a barrage across the Rhone below Bellegarde, forming above stream a reach of 14 miles to the lake, and downstream a waterfall which it is estimated would yield 100,000 horsepower for transmission to Paris. The company further offers to construct the necessary facilities to enable vessels to pass through the dam. In this way navigation would be opened direct with Geneva. Associated with this project is one for the construction of a canal from Lyons to Arles. This canal would be 170 miles long, and would cost about \$120,000,000, and it is understood that the municipality of Marseilles is considering the advisability of connecting this canal with that town by another canal to cost \$16,000,000. If this scheme were put into execution Lyons, Marseilles and the Rhine would be placed in direct communication by means of the Rhone-Rhine Canal.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Grace M. Kuhn, widow of Hartman Kuhn, of Philadelphia, recently filed for probate in the Berkshire courts, Harvard University receives \$175,000 to endow a department of biological chemistry in the memory of a son, Hartman Kuhn, who died several years ago.

THE general council of Louisville has passed an ordinance which has been signed by the mayor, appropriating \$25,000 from the general purpose fund for 1908, for the use of the Medical Department of the University of Louisville. The money is to be expended for laboratory equipment for the consolidated medical schools.

MR. JACOB SASSOON has given about \$330,000 to establish a central college of science in Bombay.

DR. HENRY JULIAN HUNTER has left \$70,000 to Sheffield University.

STATISTICS just compiled at the University of Wisconsin show that 417 graduates and former students have this year received appointments to the faculties of universities,

colleges, normal schools, academies and high schools, or as superintendents of schools in 29 states and 7 foreign countries. Of the total number, 116 received appointments to the faculties of colleges and universities; 250 were appointed high school principals or teachers and superintendents of schools; 14 were appointed as instructors in normal schools; and 7 were appointed to college and normal schools in Alaska, Porto Rico, Philippines, Japan, Argentine Republic and Canada. Among the colleges and universities to the faculties of which university graduates were appointed this year are: Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, Amherst, Dartmouth, Stanford University, the University of California, Northwestern University, the state universities of Michigan, Georgia, Nebraska, Utah, Illinois, Idaho, Indiana, South Carolina, Oregon, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Kansas, Washington, Tennessee and Missouri, and the state agricultural colleges of Massachusetts, Georgia, Kansas, Oregon, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri and Iowa.

It is understood that Dr. James R. Angell, professor of psychology in the University of Chicago, has declined the presidency of Dartmouth College.

HENRY ASBURY CHRISTIAN, A.B. (Randolph-Macon '95), M.D. (Johns Hopkins '00), Hersey professor of the theory and practise of physic at Harvard University, has been appointed dean of the medical school.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD will fill the chair of botany in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute after November first. During the past year he has been engaged with the Continental Mexican Rubber Company in the investigation of possible methods for the growth of the Mexican desert rubber plant, *Parthenium argentatum* A. Gray, under conditions of cultivation.

At Cornell College, Iowa, Mr. Layton Gouldin has been appointed assistant in chemistry, C. W. Lounsberry in engineering, and E. K. Mapes, in physics.

At Bryn Mawr College Mr. Chester A. Reeds who, until recently, has held a position